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# Ecomedia

**BULLETIN**

Ecomedia, P.O. Box 915, Stn F, Toronto Ont. M4Y 2N9

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ANARCHIST HOTLINE

**535-5731**EVENTS LISTINGS  
FOR ACTIVISTS

ABOVE: Some of the GRAPO women prisoners before the hungerstrike

## Spanish Hungerstrike Claims First Victim

**T**he hungerstrike of political prisoners in Spain has claimed its first victim. Jose Manuel Sevillano Martin, one of the GRAPO (October First Revolutionary Anti-Fascist Groups) prisoners on hungerstrike since November 30 of last year, died of a heart attack on May 25. He had been

in a coma for 10 days. Forty-six others are still on hungerstrike and in critical condition. All are being force-fed. As the number of doctors in local hospitals refusing to have anything to do with the force-feeding increases, the hungerstrikers are

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## WHO PLANTED THE BOMB?

Last issue we had a sketchy report on two Earth First!/IWW activists who were injured by a car bomb attack. More information is gradually trickling in concerning the attack. The two activists, Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney, were organizing a coalition between environmentalists and timber workers, and were involved in the organizing of the upcoming "Redwood Summer", a series of actions planned against the timber industry in California. They had been receiving several death threats in recent months, which some speculate originated from their opponents in the corporations.

Although the police originally charged the two for possession of explosives, they may not proceed as a communiqué was received claiming responsibility for the blast in the name

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## Harlem Residents Fight Advertising and Racism

# SOFT DRUGS, HARD-SELL

**R**esidents of Harlem are starting to resist excessive advertising for tobacco and alcohol, which comprise 90% of all billboard ads in

Harlem. Although Harlem is 95% black and Latino, nearly all these ads feature a blonde white woman. When a person of colour is shown, this per-

son is inevitably light-skinned and straight-haired, with thin nose and lips, reinforcing the racist message of the other ads. Meanwhile, billboards in "yuppie" areas near Harlem advertise cars, airlines, vacation resorts etc. Alcohol and tobacco kill nearly half a million people in the USA each year and debilitate tens of thousands (by contrast, cocaine, crack and heroin together kill about 5,000 people per year.) One brand of cigarettes, Uptown, is marketed exclusively in the black community.

On Saturday mornings, groups of men, women and children head out on the streets carrying shovels, brooms, bags, buckets of paint and rollers. The rollers turn offensive ads into a blank white panel, while the non-painters busy themselves cleaning up trash. The campaign was started by Calvin Butts, a minister of the Abyssinian Baptist Church on 138th Street, who conceived the idea during a visit to South Africa where tobacco advertising is also heavy (the USA pressures many trading partners into importing the tobacco which is increasingly hard to sell at home.) Similar campaigns are being organized in Detroit and Dallas. The cigarette companies are demanding Butts' arrest, and the U.S. government is spending \$40 million on tobacco education compared to \$9 billion into its "war on drugs" which is really another attack on the poor.

## Who Placed the Bomb? (cont. from 1)

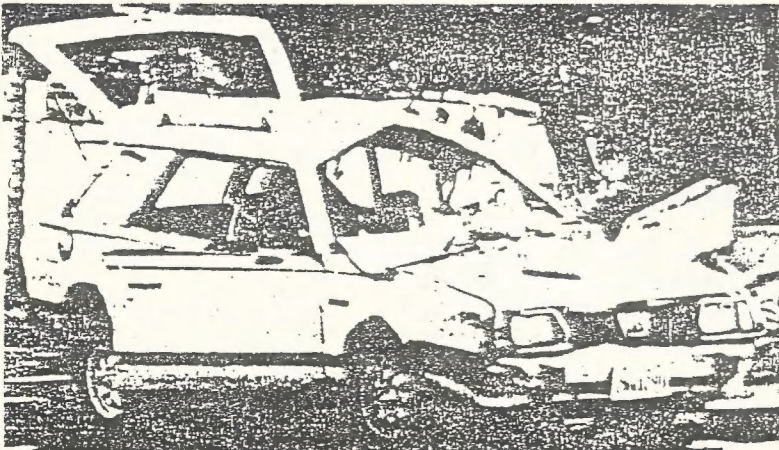
of "the Lord's Avenger". The communiqué was delivered to the Santa Rosa Press Democrat newspaper and contained specific details about the placement of the bomb. It claims that the bomb was aimed at Judi Bari, in retaliation for pro-choice demonstrations she had been involved in outside a clinic in Ukiah. "This woman is possessed of the Devil", the letter says, "The Lord cleared my vision and revealed this unto me outside the Baby-Killing Clinic when Judi Bari smote with Satan's words the humble and Faithful servants of the Lord who had come there to make witness against abortion."

Many people believe this latest story is a cover for timber company

paid "private thugs" or a government COINTELPRO-type operation. Regardless of who planted the bomb it was plainly done in the interests of the corporations. Last summer Bari and Cherney were almost killed when rammed by a logging truck. The truck and driver had been blockaded by Earth First! less than 24 hours earlier.

Bari is still in hospital with serious injuries including a fractured pelvis. Cherney is out of jail now. For more info and to help with their defense, write and donate to the Bari/Cherney Emergency Trust, c/o Mendessino Environmental Centre, 106 W. Standley, Ukiah CA, 95482 USA, (707) 468-1660.

*BELOW: Their car after the attack*



## ANARCHIST HOTLINE

For information on upcoming events of interest to the anarchist or activist community, or if you know of an event the community should know about, call the anarchist hotline, 535-5731.





# One Dead, Hunger-strike Continues

(from Page 1)

being transferred back to the prisons, where conditions further endanger their health.

The hungerstrike was begun to help force the prisoners' demands for re-unification, that is, an end to isolation from each other, which has been used recently to break the

prisoners spirit. Spain's 'socialist' government promised to meet their demands last fall after a similar hungerstrike during the Spanish elections, but this promise was quickly broken and the prisoners started the current fast. They have suffered torture and the brutal act of force-feeding, which is being done against their will.

Recently, demonstrations and occupations have been occurring in various Spanish and European cities in support of the hungerstrikers. Here in Toronto, the Anarchist Black Cross, the Wimmin Prisoners' Survival Network, and Neither East Nor West held a demonstration in front of the Spanish consulate on June 13. The thirty-odd demonstrators picketed while people laid a body in front of the consulate to symbolize the first death, which was followed by a mock die-in by the rest of the demonstrators. This was the third support demonstration organized in Toronto.

José Manuel Sevillano Martín was a member of the Rural Workers' Union when he was arrested in 1986, at age 26. He was serving 24 years for allegedly carrying out two bank robberies. He died from 177 days of hungerstrike, including months of force-feeding, strapped to his bed—like all the hungerstrikers—until he was too weak to move. On May 1st he was one of various prisoners who signed a statement absolving the medical teams ordered to force-feed them, placing the blame instead on the Ministers of Justice and the Interior, and the heads of prisons.

## How to Justify Torture

### Spanish Government Responds

In response to support actions for GRAPO held in Switzerland, the Spanish consulate released a statement this March revealing some of their motivations for torturing the prisoners. The statement, which begins by denouncing the Swiss supporters, goes on to say "GRAPO is a political organization that has set itself the goal of overthrowing the Constitutional order of the Spanish State. Under these circumstances it is logical and legitimate on the part of our government to try and destroy this organization by all available means. In recent years it has been possible to arrest many members of GRAPO. Unfortunately, these members continue their destructive activities against our State, even from within the prison system. Other States, especially West Germany and Italy, have had to go through similar experiences with prisoners belonging to politically-motivated organizations. With this category of subversive individuals, individuals who even in captivity cannot be 'tamed', justice demands that we

take and isolate them including from themselves.

"Given the present situation the fine West German experience in this field accumulated over the last twenty years constitutes a model for Spain. Solitary confinement ... is a proven method for getting prisoners to break with their destructive political beliefs and thus a way to appreciably weaken their organizations. Accusations that penitentiary conditions like these are nothing more than a form of torture are out of touch with reality, although it cannot be denied that over time health disorders will occur. This is a price that must be paid under the circumstances...

"The Spanish government is following ... the example set by West Germany. We are not to be ruled by fear, even if deaths are on the horizon. In a modern democracy, in periods of confrontation with the politically violent, no other possibility exists."

(from Angehorigen Info, April 1990)



# MEDIA WATCH

*New strategy for environmentalists?*

## Send the Rich to the Moon

*Stark*, by Ben Elton (Sphere paperbacks, 1989) is a very funny book about irreversible pollution destroying the planet. This theme is by no means new (for instance, British science fiction writer John Brunner approached it twenty years ago in *The Sheep Look Up*), but each year the dividing line between what-has-already-happened and what-still-must-happen to make destruction inevitable moves farther in the latter direction, making it possible to write a more convincing book. Elton, an Australian stand-up comedian best known here for writing the TV series *Blackadder*, focuses on efforts of the industrialists responsible for the pollution to escape its consequences by rocketing to another planet.

You can get a bigger scare for your money by reading the book in tandem with daily news reports, particularly those in the alternative press. This reviewer, for instance, was halfway

through it when he read (in Bob Hunter's ecology column in *Metropolis*) that the real reason Lucien Bouchard quit Mulroney's cabinet was that he was about to be fired for urging a ten per cent reduction in carbon emissions over the next ten years, a move which his boss along with Bush and Thatcher have already decided against. It seems the petrochemical industry donates too much money to their election coffers for the heads of state to antagonize them. Bouchard has been unable to push any significant environmental action through the Ottawa bureaucracy, despite growing evidence of the greenhouse effect.

At what point does fantasy about a corporate-government plot to destroy the earth end, and the actual destruction begin? We don't know, but reading a few good disaster novels might help you to prepare yourself for the real thing.

## Objectors Obtain Amnesty

Three Finnish conscientious objectors were granted amnesty by the president of Finland after 39 days on hungerstrike. A fourth has finished his hungerstrike but has not yet been granted amnesty.

The hungerstrikers were imprisoned because they refused both compulsory military service and alternative civilian service. There are still 15 other total objectors in Finnish prisons, who are generally given 12

months or more inside. The hunger-strikers were the first total objectors ever to be granted amnesty in Finland.

Support for the hungerstrikers was organized by the Anarchist Black Cross (Finland section) who initiated a call for international pressure on Finland against military service and the imprisonment of objectors.

## Calendar

**Thurs 21 June 2PM:** Demonstration against Indonesia's genocidal invasion of East Timor at the Indonesian Consulate, 425 University (S. of Dundas) sponsored by ACT for Disarmament and the East Timor Action Network. For more info call: 960-2228

**Thursday 21** Discussion on Media portrayal of AIDS at A Space183 Bathurst st. For more info 364-3227

**Saturday June 23, noon, and every Saturday.** Demonstrate at the ROM against their racist *Into the Heart of Africa* exhibit. At the Royal Ontario Museum, just south of Bloor on Bay (Museum subway stop)

**Thurs. June 28, 7:30pm:** Fifth open public forum on Azania focusing on analysis of Mandela's visit and new projects. Cecil St. Community Centre, 58 Cecil.

## Announcements

**Extended Circle:** Drummer needed for anarchist/animal rights band. call Mark 423-3760

**Prison Justice Day:** The Wimmin Prisoners Survival Network is interested in doing something for Prison Justice Day (august 10). If you think you'd like to help, please leave a message on the anarchist hotline, 535-5731.

## Ecomedia Toronto

Ecomedia is an international "wire service" that acts as an alternative to regular news services. We focus on news and often censored information on autonomous and anarchist resistance and analysis of current events.

Ecomedia Toronto is a local office involved in three main projects: a radio show every Wednesday on CKLN 88.1 FM between 7 and 8 pm on the "Word of Mouth" program; also another radio spot at 12:15pm on CIUT 89.5 FM; and the bulletin in your hands. Published bi-weekly and free at locations around the city; subscriptions are \$15/yr (26 issues) mailed monthly to cut costs. Order from the address on the front with cheques or M.O.'s payable to Ecomedia.